

## Project Evaluation

F-9-R-12 Southwest Montana Fishery Study.

### Job III. Creel Census on Waters in the Project Area.

The objective is to collect harvest data on waters where fishery management techniques are applied. Creel census studies, designed to measure or estimate total pressure and total harvest, require large expenditures of both funds and manpower. Therefore limited sampling of angler harvest should be employed where reliable data can be obtained.

Information from creel census is used in determining whether management measures already in effect are bringing the desired results. Total creel census studies have been performed on certain heavily fished waters in the project area where a put and take program supplies the bulk of the fishery. Although costly, the census information was useful in cutting costs from the management technique and improving the quality of fishing.

Last year a partial creel census was conducted on the Yellowstone River. A checking station was set up where anglers could voluntarily report their catches. Angler cooperation was only fair and total pressure and harvest could not be estimated. However, the project was worthwhile since catch data are lacking on this blue ribbon stream, and we gained some information to improve this creel census technique.

A constant evaluation of creel census information and techniques can supplement us with data needed to maintain and improve the quality of fishing on a particular water.